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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Marketing Services
Washington, D. C.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON TOBACCO INSPECTION AND MARKET NEWS REFERENDUM

The Tobacco Inspection Act was passed by Congress and approved by the President of the United States on August 23, 1935 (49 Stat. 731). The law provides that if two-thirds of the growers voting in any referendum favor the designation of a market, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to designate such market under the Tobacco Inspection Act for free and mandatory inspection. After a market has been designated by the Secretary, no warehouseman may lawfully offer tobacco for sale at auction on that market until the tobacco has been officially inspected and certificated.

The service offered consists of tobacco inspection and market news. For auction markets on which referendums carry, the cost of this service will be paid by the United States Department of Agriculture. Under the plan, growers will be furnished reliable and unbiased information as to the quality of tobacco offered for sale and current market prices on a grade basis.

Competent inspectors employed by the United States Department of Agriculture will be placed in the warehouses to examine all of the tobacco prior to the sale and determine its official standard grade. These grades will be written in a space provided for the purpose on warehouse tickets.

A free market news service will be furnished growers on all markets designated under the act. This service will consist chiefly of compiling the daily or weekly price at which each grade is sold and furnishing this information to growers and others interested. Growers who have definite information as to the quality of tobacco offered for sale and the current market price being paid for a similar quality are in a better position to sell to the best advantage. With this information the warehouseman is in a better position to start each lot at the right price, which tends to prevent its being overlooked in the sale. There are many other advantages which may be successfully claimed for the tobacco inspection and market news service, all of which are based upon furnishing growers reliable information which they should have in marketing their tobacco.

The Government grades placed on each lot of tobacco will in no way interfere with the private grades of the buyers. The Government grades will serve the grower in the same manner as the companies' grades serve the buyer. Buying organizations find a system of grades necessary in making purchases. Growers need a system of grades to guide them in selling. All Georgia and Florida (Type 14) markets were officially inspected during the 1944 marketing season with the exception of Blackshear and Quitman, Ga. and Lake City, Fla.

County agents and agricultural teachers are familiar with the inspection and market news services and may be contacted for further information.

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